THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 19th September 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Working of Secretariat Departments.

* 26 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Departments in the Secretariat and the sections into which each department is divided;

(*b*) the number of lower division and upper division clerks and Superintendents in each section;

(*c*) the average number of clerks whose work a Superintendent is expected to supervise;

(*d*) the average number of files a lower division clerk and upper division clerk and a Superintendent are expected to dispose of per day or per month;

(*e*) on what basis, if any, an increase in the staff in various sections is demanded; and

(*f*) whether the papers or files in each section are classified under different categories, and if so, what the classification is?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) The information is given in the statement below:—

Department.	Number of sections.	
	Permanent.	Temporary.
Home	7	9
Education and Public Health ..	10	8
Development	8	18
Food	..	12
Local Administration	7	3
Chief Secretariat	9	24
Revenue	6	6
Public Works Department ..	6	15
Finance	9	8
Legal	3	2

"(*b*) & (*c*) Each section has a Superintendent with two to three upper division clerks and one lower division clerk. The Superintendent supervises the work of all the clerks in his section.

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"(*d*) Lower division clerks attend only to routine work like registering papers, maintaining personal registers, despatching, etc. An upper division clerk deals on an average with about five to six new papers every day. This excludes old files dealt with at different stages in a department before they leave that department. In sections which deal with mostly routine work, the average per clerk will be much higher.

"(*e*) Normally, upper division clerks are sanctioned on the basis of five to six currents per day per clerk. For every two or three upper division clerks a Superintendent is also sanctioned to supervise and scrutinize their work. This is the usual strength of a section. In addition to the above, a section will also have a lower division clerk for attending to routine work.

"(*f*) Papers are generally classified as ordinary, urgent and special and also as confidential and non-confidential. Urgent papers are those which need early but not immediate attention and special papers are those, which need immediate attention. Confidential papers are those seen by or shown to only a limited number of officers and staff and this consist of two classes, viz.—

Class (1).—Those which being 'secret' or 'strictly confidential' are not ordinarily sent into the office but are kept in the custody of the gazetted officers.

Class (2).—Those that are sent into the office and may have to be kept 'confidential' for a limited or unlimited period; the custody of such papers is vested in Superintendents of sections.

"Every communication received and dealt with, whether marked confidential or not, is however expected to be treated as confidential and not to be divulged to the public, including non-Secretariat Government employees."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Sir, in view of the very long answer which enables us to get a glimpse of the Secretariat procedure, may I suggest to the Hon. Minister to have the answer circulated among the members so that we may put supplementary questions. We have not been able to follow anything except that there have been more temporary sections than permanent section in all departments?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Surely you have bargained for such a long answer by such a question."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Most of the answers to the hon. Member's questions will have to be printed as they are invariably require long answers."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Most of the questions relate to Secretariat procedure and reference may be made to Secretariat officers."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" This may not be possible always."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I am interested in this because there is a feeling that the Secretariat is growing rather rapidly sometimes and people want to know how this is happening."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You can see this from the Budget."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" There is only a general discussion and we have no power to do anything."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Then, what is it that you want? "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I would request the Hon. Minister to have the answers circulated to us and if necessary we may put separate questions."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" These proceedings are all printed as official publications and circulated to the members by the Legislature Secretariat. I have no objection to have the answers roneoed and distributed."

Producers-cum-consumers societies in Malabar.

* 27 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the producers-*cum*-consumers societies in Malabar have been entrusted with the work of distribution of foodgrains and other controlled articles;

(*b*) whether the work of distribution was before the advent of these new co-operatives done in many places by the co-operative stores;

(*c*) whether in Palghat the distribution was entrusted to co-operative stores which also ran ration depots;

(*d*) whether the Government ordered that the ration depots of stores should be handed over to the producers-*cum*-consumers societies;

(*e*) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies suggested the retention of distribution and ration depots in the hands of the co-operative stores; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to restore the distribution work to the co-operative stores?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The producers-*cum*-consumers societies in Malabar have been entrusted with the procurement of local paddy and the wholesale and retail distribution of local paddy and imported foodgrains. They are also entrusted with the retail distribution of sugar and kerosene oil through the ration shops run by them.

" (*b*) Before the advent of producers-*cum*-consumers societies the retail distribution was being done mainly by private authorized dealers and a few shops were run by co-operative stores or credit societies. Out of 2,970 ration shops which